

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 10:02 AM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Joy Hampton; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily; OU Nightly
Subject: City Institutes Moderate (Mandatory) Conservation
Attachments: Water Conservation Proclamation.pdf

City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Carol Coles
City Of Norman
366-5404
carol.coles@normanok.gov

The City of Norman is instituting “Moderate (Mandatory) Conservation” because of the significant increase in water usage due to the extended period of high temperatures with little chance of rain in the immediate future. This represents Stage 2 in the City’s adopted Water Conservation Plan. The trigger for starting Stage 2 conservation occurs when local water demand exceeds the City’s water supply capacity by greater than 3 MGD (Million Gallons per Day) for two consecutive days with no weather related relief in the immediate future and water is being purchased from Oklahoma City at emergency pricing.

Steve Lewis, City Manager, noted “The goal of ‘Moderate Mandatory Conservation’ is to accomplish a significant reduction in the water demand to more closely match the supply capabilities of the City.”

Lewis went on to say “The goal of this action is to help ensure that we have an adequate water supply to maintain services. The drought plaguing much of the interior United States continues to stretch into Oklahoma. The U.S. Drought Monitor Report indicates severe to extreme drought has crept into Oklahoma with 64% Oklahoma now portrayed in at least severe drought. The outlook is for drought to persist or intensify over much of the U.S., including Oklahoma, through at least the next couple of weeks.” Cleveland County has joined the ranks of Oklahoma counties with active burn bans. Currently 49 of Oklahoma’s 77 counties have burn bans in effect. Yesterday Governor Mary Fallin has declared a State of Emergency for all 77 Oklahoma counties due to extreme or exceptional drought conditions.

Finally, Lewis noted “We must make the most efficient use of existing supplies. Moving to Stage 2 restrictions now will allow the water system to maintain supply for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection. Implementation of these restrictions is needed in order to minimize future adverse impacts on the water supply and to forestall drastic actions such as limiting yard and landscape watering to one day a week and shutting down the City’s splash pads. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation and support”.

In Stage 2 of the City of Norman adopted Water Conservation Plan, the following rules and regulations apply:

For Residential Customers:

- All outdoor watering or irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Odd/Even water restrictions (house addresses that end with an even number water on even numbered calendar days; house addresses that end with an odd number water on odd number calendar days) for irrigation purposes are required for all customers with NO watering on Wednesday and Thursday of each week. The first days with no watering restriction will be Wednesday, August 8th and Thursday, August 9th. Hand watering gardens/plants/shrubs with a hose is allowed at any time. The 31st day of the month is not included in the odd/even water rotation, but conservation is urged.
- Excess water run-off from any landscaped area onto streets is prohibited whether by design, maladjustment to sprinkler system, or usage during high winds.
- Washing of cars, trucks, trailers or other vehicles is prohibited unless these items are taken to a commercial carwash.
- Washing or hosing down of buildings, sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, parking areas or any paved surface is prohibited.

For Commercial Customers:

- All residential watering and irrigation restrictions noted above apply.
- Developers and commercial enterprises must wait until the current water emergency has passed before establishing any new landscaping.

For the City of Norman:

- The City will follow the same watering conservation rules as the public.
- City splash pad operation hours will be reduced by 2 hours each day.
- Eliminate non-essential City water use (e.g. street cleaning, vehicle washing, flushing of water mains, fire hydrant testing, etc).

Additional information:

- The conservation measures apply to City of Norman water customers. Those residents with private wells are not subject to City of Norman's conservation rules.
- The Mandatory Conservation Stage will be lifted by notice from the City Manager's office. Notification will be in the newspaper and on the City web site.
- Violating or ignoring the Mandatory Conservation rules may result in enforcement action as set in the City of Norman Code of Ordinances 21-501. Violations are considered a misdemeanor and punishable with fines not less than \$50 or more than \$750 per violation.
- For more information about the Water Conservation Plan and to read the conservation plan in full, go to the City website
<http://www.normanok.gov/sites/default/files/Utilities/images/2011%20Water%20Conservation%20Plan.pdf>